

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SUVA 01080 230145Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 JUSE-00 /078 W
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R 222300Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7549
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TV, GN
SUBJECT: GILBERT ISLANDS

REF: A) LONDON 9607, B) SUVA 0999

1. WE WOULD LIKE TO PUT IN A WORD TO HIGHLIGHT THE FCO'S GOOD REASONS IN EXPRESSING FEARS ABOUT POSSIBLE GILBERTESE REACTIONS TO THEIR UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE WITH USG. THE FEELING OF FRUSTRATION IS BOUND TO MOUNT AS TIME GOES ON AND BRINGS DAY OF INDEPENDENCE CLOSER. IF INDEED THEY GET THE FEEL THAT THEY ARE GETTING THE RUNAROUND BY THE US THE TEMPTATION TO GO PUBLIC WITH ANTI-IMPERIALIST RHETORIC WILL BECOME NOT ONLY IRRESISTABLE BUT THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO GET RESULTS. THE FRUSTRATIONS WITH THE BANABANS CANNOT BUT ACCELERATE THE PROCESS TOWARDS EXHAUSTING PATIENCE WITH THE AMERICANS. LECTURES ON OUR PART ABOUT INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES AND COMPETING INTERESTS CAN BUY ONLY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME AND THEN THEY BECOME COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

2. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE ALSO THE GILBERTESE ABILITY TO ELICIT SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY THROUGHOUT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PACIFIC SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO GO PUBLIC AND RAISE THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST FLAG. IN SUCH EVENT PRESSURE FROM THE OTHER ISLANDS IN THE PACIFIC WILL MOUNT.

3. IN REF B WE RAISED THE QUESTION OF TUVALU AND POINTED OUT THE URGENCY FOR POSITIVE ACTION SINCE 1 OCTOBER DATE OF INDEPENDENCE IS ALREADY FIXED. SHOULD TUVALU FIND ITSELF COM-

PELLED TO SHOUT "IMPERIALISM" GILBERT WILL FOLLOW SUIT AND BEFORE WE REALIZE IT THE ENTIRE PACIFIC WILL BE THROWN TO THE PROVERBIAL STONES. THE TROUBLE IS THAT EVERYONE IN THE PACIFIC WILL BE ALERT TO SEE THE 200 MILE ZONE BEHIND ANY DELAYING TACTICS WE MAY ADOPT LET ALONE ANY OBVIOUS UNWILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE. THIS WILL ENHANCE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE IMPERIALIST ACCUATION TO BE THROWN AT US UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. OUR ADVERSARIES WILL FIND IT MOST CONVENIENT TO ADD THIS TO THEIR ANTI-U.S. PROPAGANDA.
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Message Attributes

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